

Rev, R I C H A R D
H A K L U Y T

*Sir Jo HN HA WK IN ss First
Foyage to the West Indies| Oct.
IL\$62-Sept. 1563^ A*D«*

[The foul blot on this and the two subsequent Voyages of Sir JOHN HAWKINS is, that they were the first initiation of the English into the execrable iniquities of the African slave trade, and the horrors of the middle passage.

While the primary object of these voyages was Traffic: the secondary one was Discovery; to find out those West Indian coasts which the Spaniards had hitherto kept so secret. Notice how each successive expedition penetrated further and further towards the Gulf of Mexico.

It should also be remembered that, at the time of these Voyages, HAWKINS had not been knighted, and was simply an Esquire.]

*{Voyages,
1589 }*

The first Voyage of the right worshipful and valiant Knight, Sir JOHN HAWKINS (now *i.e.*, in 1589) Treasurer of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, made to the West Indies.

ASTER JOHN HAWKINS having made divers voyages to the *Isles* of the Canaries; and there, by his good and upright dealing, being grown in love and favour with the people, informed himself amongst them, by diligent inquisition, of the state of the West India: whereof he had received some knowledge by the instructions of his father; but increased the same, by the advertisements and reports of that people.

And being, amongst other particulars, assured that Negroes were very good merchandise in Hispaniola; and that store of Negroes might easily be had upon the coast of Guinea; he resolved with himself to make trial thereof: and communicated that device with his worshipful friends in London, namely, with Sir LIONEL DUCKET, Sir THOMAS LODGE, Master GUNSTON his father-in-law, Sir WILLIAM WINTER, Master BROMFIELD, and others. All which persons liked so well of his intention, that they became liberal Contributors and Adventurers in the action.

For which purpose, there were three good ships immediately provided, the one called the *Solomon*^ of the burthen